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Local News

Liberal's mutual self-help program

By TINA BRIDENSTINE
Southwest Daily Times

Hard work has paid off for the Mutual Self-Help Housing Program in Liberal. Wednesday morning at the corner of Spruce and Virginia streets was the groundbreaking for the five new houses.

The ceremony started at 9 a.m. when USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks presented Liberal Housing and Community Development Director Jani Hunter with a check for \$100,000.

"Expanding affordable homeownership opportunities is important, given housing's key link to personal and community prosperity," Banks said.

"The City of Liberal is excited to finally have the program come to fruition and looks forward to a long and continued successful partnership with the agency," Hunter said after accepting the check.

After being given the check, Hunter then moved on with the groundbreaking part of the ceremony. Banks, Hunter, Mayor Ron Warren, Sonya Holman of housing and community development and members of the families who are to build the homes lined up behind gold shovels to break ground.

Afterward, Hunter explained to all in attendance that, should they drive by and see that no work had been done, that was because the work would not be started still until near the end of October.

The Mutual Self-Help Housing Program gives funds to people and families who are income eligible through an agency, such as housing and community development. These funds help the individuals build their own homes.

However, the families are expected to supply "sweat equity" and do 65 percent of the work to construct the house.

Five families were selected to participate in the program.

For more information, call Jani Hunter or Sonya Holman at 626-0156.